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undoubtedly fresh and of value ; while of the personalities of English politics of this period it is doubtful whether there is a biography in existence which cannot be further enriched by citations from the Creevey journals and letters. The period was a sordid one, and its seamy side is often prominent in Creevey's descriptions of his contemporaries. Grey's reputation is enhanced by Creevey's memoirs ; so is the Duke of Wellington's ; but in hardly any other set of memoirs is Brougham shown in a worse light, or is there a more positively depressing picture of the state into which royalty had fallen in the first thirty years of the nineteenth century.

Much the same tone prevails with regard to political parties. Except for the adherence of the Whigs to reform, there was very little to choose between them and the Tories ; for both viewed the spoils of office in the same light. From the point of view of party history Creevey's memoirs are most serviceable in showing the condition of the Whig party in the years between the death of Fox and the accession of Grey to the leadership — in the period when Ponsonby and Tierney, both of whom had been of the Irish House of Commons, were in charge of the fortunes of the Whigs and Radicals in the lower house at Westminster. There is an informing chapter covering Creevey's visit to Ireland in 1828, especially valuable for the light it throws on the condition of Ireland between the Union and the emancipation of the Roman Catholics in 1829. For the three years 1830, 1831, and 1832 also Creevey's letters and journals are of unquestionable usefulness. He was behind the scenes during the final stages of the movement for reform ; and his correspondence at this critical time forms a serviceable addition to the *Correspondence of William IV. and Grey* ; *Grey's Letters to Princess Lieven* ; and the *Croker Papers*.

It is fortunate that the Creevey Papers have been unearthed ; but the discoverer of them can scarcely have realized their full value, or he would have taken more trouble with his biographical sketch of Creevey, and would have given closer and more continuous attention to the editing of the material and especially to the foot-notes. These are unevenly and capriciously done. Many instances of this could be cited. It will be sufficient, however, to cite Creevey's Liverpool friends, Dr. Currie and William Roscoe. No one would imagine from Sir Herbert Maxwell's brief notes introducing these correspondents of Creevey's that both of them were active Liberal politicians to whom places will have to be assigned in any comprehensive history of Liberalism and Nonconformity in England.

EDWARD PORRITT.

*Studies in Napoleonic Statesmanship : Germany.* By HERBERT A. L. FISHER, M.A., Fellow of New College. (Oxford: The Clarendon Press ; New York: Henry Frowde. 1903. Pp. xii, 392.)

MR. FISHER is not an apologist for the Napoleonic régime. He points out in detail its inherent defects and the extortions which were

practised under it. And yet the tone of his exposition leaves with the reader the impression that there were times and occasions when that régime was not entirely unrelieved by the consciousness of benevolent intentions. And so far as some of its subordinate instruments are concerned, that is true. But they were so seldom free agents in their respective spheres that their purposes and incidental achievements cannot properly be counted for righteousness when judgment is passed upon the whole.

To the two phases of Napoleon's political activity in Germany, its territorial reconstruction and the imposition of the French administrative system upon the states over which his sway was undisputed, equal space is given. The first part of the book is a sketch of the conquests, secularization, and confiscation that took place during the ten years between Campo Formio and Tilsit. The second part treats of the economic conditions and the administrative innovations in Berg, Westphalia, Frankfurt, and the Hanse towns from Tilsit to the Russian campaign. There is an additional chapter upon the Rhine departments and their advancement under the Consulate and Empire.

It will be seen that neither of these fields is completely covered. There were territorial alterations after 1807, and there were extensions of French governmental methods before and after that date, which the author leaves untouched. In Prussia, too, during the period of humiliation, even though she managed to escape further dismemberment and submission to French bureaucratic control, Napoleonic statesmanship brought forth abundant fruit after its kind. Concerning his motives the master frankly unbosomed himself to his agents. To Beugnot, who protested against the tobacco monopoly in Berg, he wrote: "It is not a question of your duchy but of France. I know well that you will gain nothing by it; it is possible that you may lose, and what matter if France obtain a profit?" (p. 220). To Metternich, speaking of Dalberg, who submitted a draft of a constitution for the Confederation of the Rhine, he said:

I will tell you my secret. The small people in Germany want to be protected against the big: the big want to govern according to their fancy; now as I only want a federation of men and of money, and as it is the big people and not the small people who can give me the one and the other, I leave the former in peace, and the latter must get on as best they can (p. 165).

The demand for men and money is the significant feature of Napoleonic government in Germany, because its enforcement paralyzed productive industry and dislocated the social order. If these be not the complete measure of the value of all political institutions, certainly without them constitutions and codes have no reason for their existence. What profit had the grand duchy of Berg, for example, in the possession of "the first enlightened and comprehensive municipal ordinance" that Germany had known, or in the building of good roads, or the abolition of internal customs-duties, or the sweeping away of "mediæval detritus"? All changes of this sort may be useful upon occasion, but they

should not be identified with the final and absolute good. The worth of machines of any sort depends upon the uses to which they are put. In a community that groans under a system of organized pillage, wood paths and thickets may be more serviceable as avenues of escape than the smooth pavements of public highways.

In Berg the French organized a state with a population of three millions, who gained their livelihood chiefly from the industries of iron, steel, wool, cotton, and silk. The improved governmental machinery was applied, and in five years the export trade was reduced from 60,000,000 to 11,000,000 francs, first, by cutting off the foreign market, second, by refusing to open a new market in France, and third, by wholesale confiscations of the raw material in sight. As the resources of the state diminished, the burdens increased, first, by the enlargement of the military establishment in five years from one regiment to nearly 10,000 men at an annual cost of more than 4,000,000 francs, and after the Russian disaster by an additional conscription of more than 4,000 men. Additional burdens were imposed by contributions to support a French army of occupation, which in 1810 numbered 12,000 men, by a further war contribution of 1,500,000 francs, and by the appropriation of 250,000 francs per annum from the state domains and other sums for pensions to the relatives and generals of the emperor. If Mr. Fisher had called his book "*Studies in Napoleonic Spoliation in Germany*", he would have given it a more descriptive title.

JOHN H. CONEY.

*The South American Republics.* By THOMAS C. DAWSON, Secretary of the United States Legation to Brazil. In two volumes. Vol. I., Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil. [Story of the Nations.] (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1903. Pp. xvi, 525.)

THE general plan of the work is to follow an introductory chapter on "The Discoveries and the Conquest" by separate parts devoted to the east coast countries in the first volume, and to those of the west and north coasts in the second. Of this volume about two hundred and twenty-five pages are devoted to Brazil, one hundred and twenty-five to Argentina, and sixty each to Paraguay and Uruguay. There are some sixty illustrations that are in the main well-chosen, but the three maps are a disgrace to the publishers.

It is not easy to estimate the weight of new statements in a book that has no foot-notes, no distinct references to authorities, and only a short list of books that "have been of use in the preparation of the first volume". But when this list is preceded by a statement that "Personal observations through a residence of six years in South America; conversations with public men, scholars, merchants, and proprietors; newspapers and reviews, political pamphlets, books of travel, and official publications, have furnished me with most of my material for the